

G-MB - 40/63  
29 January 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, CIA/PID (NPIC)

FROM: Chief, Geo-Military Branch, PID

SUBJECT: Non-NPIC Component Photo Interpretation

On several occasions it has come to the attention of PID/GMB analysts that photo interpretation is being performed by non-NPIC components. The following text is a brief attempt to highlight some of these practices of which we are aware:

I. At the present time GMB is working with ORR in three general areas, two of which are in support of DDP and the other in support of the AMS 1:250,000 mapping program. In all three instances the probability exists that PI work is being done outside of PID.

25X1C II. GMB is working in coordination with ORR in support [redacted]  
[redacted] Under the present setup GMB furnishes ORR blowups of 25X1A  
25X1A [redacted] and targets along with annotated maps. ORR includes this  
information in their study which is forwarded to the field.

The problem centers on ORR's use of a great deal of raw photographic materials (d.p.'s and prints). The stated reason for this is to enable the ORR analyst to become more familiar with the area under study. It is not known whether any additional information is taken off the photography during this scan and, if any information is taken, how much and of what type. GMB to date has not seen any of the finished reports before being forwarded to the field to check their input into the final product.

Since PID/GMB is charged with the responsibility of furnishing the photo intelligence used in these reports they will likewise be held responsible for any errors that are based on PI and appear in the report. Since at the present time we do not check the final report and others working on the report use photography in accomplishing their task we feel we do not have the control over the final product we should have if we are to be responsible for part of its content.

To remedy this situation we recommend the following possible course of action:

1. We provide annotated map sheets revised through the use of the photography and containing all information normally found on a map including new roads, trails, village and vegetative cover, and in addition, any military activity noted in the area.

2. The ORR analyst scan, if desired, the photography in the GMB work area with the assistance of a trained PI. This could be accomplished after preparation of the overlays at which time any questions arising from a study of the overlay could be answered.

Adoption of these procedures would increase the work load on GMB but it is felt that a better product would result and also one of which we were fully aware of what information came from photography.

III. GMB is also presently involved in collaborating with ORR in the preparation of area studies of selected areas of Cuba. In this instance, also the final product is to be used by DDP in support of operations.

Under present operating procedures, map overlays for 1:50,000 series maps are prepared. These overlays contain all information normally plotted on the maps themselves and include forested areas, swamps, roads inhabited areas, and any evidence of military activity. In addition, selected enlargements are forwarded and roll d.p.'s are requested through the film files.

Copies of the final draft of these reports are not reviewed by GMB, we are, however, on distribution for the reports and have received several of them. It is difficult in reading the reports to separate that information which has been obtained from photography and that which has been obtained from other sources.

The problem here is in general terms the same problem mentioned above in supporting DDP/FE. Here, however, we believe our case is stronger in that map coverage is of extremely high quality and we are providing them with detailed overlays. Their need to scan the photography is somewhat weakened by these factors. In any event if their need of photographic scanning is simply to become familiar with the area, this could be accomplished by a visit to GMB and conducting this scan in the company of one of our trained PI's.

Again the problem of personnel (numbers) arises. If we are to work this way we would have to have analysts available to work with the ORR analysts when it was convenient, within reason, for them. This would somewhat restrict us in shifting personnel from project to project in order to meet deadlines as is now the case.

At this time any questions arising from the study of the map overlays could be answered and in our opinion at least the probability of producing a better product would be enhanced.

In any event at the present time there seems to be considerable duplication of effort with regard to scanning or studying the photography.

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We have also on several instances been requested to support ORR by furnishing enlargements and other materials on jobs supposedly being performed [redacted] in both instances resulted in their denying any knowledge of the projects.

IV. GMB is also presently furnishing support to the AMS/ORR mapping program. We receive map proof sheets from ORR and are requested to answer questions regarding various items on the sheet and to add any items of interest that have been identified on the photography but have not been annotated on the map sheet.

It has come to our attention that on several occasions changes have been made on proof sheets by ORR that certainly must have required photo interpretation. Such changes include the addition of stream patterns, agricultural patterns, village or building locations, road and railway alignments, industrial sites, and military, airfield, SAM and missile sites. Most of the work done on these sheets is in answer to questions prepared by ORR as a result of their scanning of photography.

Here is a very good example of duplication of effort for essentially no useful purpose. What does ORR obtain from their scan of photography? How does this differ from PI and why should the many various cans of film be scanned twice. We may be over simplifying the problem in arriving at our solution but it would seem that one step could be eliminated with no loss to the final product and with a saving in production effort. This change would be the combining of the ORR scan with the PI check done in GMB. This could be accomplished by moving the entire project to PID where the initial and final scan of the photography would be accomplished simultaneously by one individual. This would greatly increase the work load placed on PID and would require additional personnel. These additional people could either be hired or those presently employed could be transferred from ORR. In the latter event it would be recommended that they attend the PI course to be conducted for other untrained employees of PID.

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GMB has worked very closely with [redacted] for several years but on many occasions, materials have been prepared for their use. It is felt that on occasion, interpretations made by GMB have been reconfirmed by [redacted] based on their interpretations. This practice is both duplication of effort and time consuming, because the GMB interpretation is derived from roll d.p.'s, making the preparation of enlargements unnecessary. Secondly, non-PI interpretations are known to be frequently in error.

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25X1A Similar occurrences have taken place by other DDP components, but by far, less frequently [redacted]

25X1A It is understood that many times, these enlargements are understandably utilized for the briefing of authorizing officials, or for interested, [redacted] but again on many occasions for their interpretation. [redacted] was heavily in the PI business before and during the Cuban invasion period of April 1961 but to a lesser degree since that time.

25X1A There are undoubtedly many other factors affecting the operating procedures discussed above that have not been brought out in this paper. It is suggested that perhaps a discussion of the contents of this paper might result in additional details being brought out.

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